

Governor's Advisory Commission on Aging

Minutes

November 17, 2005

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:50 a.m.

II. Attendance: Members Sign-In

Members Present: Ann Gardella, Sr. Marietta Walsh, Janice Zeichner, Mr. Joseph Brown, Mr. Ken Reynolds, Rev. Paul Bliss, Ms. Louise King, Ms. Ester Price, and Ms. Maria Matias

Others in Attendance: Ms. Corinne Calise Russo, Director DEA, Ms. Paula Parker (DEA)

Excused: Ms. Helen Friend, Mr. Bennet Plotkin, Ms. Nancy Pontes, Ms. Libby Arron, Ms. Gloria Williams, and Ms. Madeline Ernest

Absent: Mr. Herb Weiss, Mr. Raymond Tetreault, Dr. Herb Constantine, Mr. Joseph Corrente and Ms. Lisa Pontarelli

III. Minutes:

The minutes of the October 19, 2005 were corrected and approved.

IV. Chairperson's Report

The Chair reported on her role as a volunteer to take calls and make referrals regarding Medicare Part D.

V. Director's Report

Medicare Part D The Director congratulated all the volunteers who manned the phones at Channel 10 to answer questions about Part D. She noted that the informational event at the Warwick Mall was successful and that Delia Rodriguez of the DEA had interpreters available to assist a group of Chinese elders. The Director reported that she had discussed Part D on Arlene Violet's radio show. A question arose about whether insurers can visit seniors at home. The Director stated that she would get clarification about that issue. She noted that there would be a stakeholders meeting about Part D on November 21st at the Department of Human Services.

Rev. Bliss commented that his friend attended the Warwick Mall event and felt it was very well organized and helpful.

Sr. Walsh mentioned the issue of people who discuss Part D on the radio and who have incorrect information. E. Price said that members of the St. Martin de Porres Sr. Center have stated that they will not sign up for any plan because they are confused. The Director said that it was important that they sign up. The issue of creditable coverage was also discussed.

VI. Treasurer's Report

Ester Price reported that the Commission has \$601.95 in the checking account. She is waiting for new checks so that she can reimburse Sr. M. Walsh for NEC of SUA conferences. E. Price will meet A. Gardella at the bank to add the Chair's name to the signature card.

VII. Committee Reports

N.E. Coalition: Sister Walsh attended the October meeting and presented the Commission with the Group's letter to be forwarded to members of congress. They also discussed the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. Sr. Walsh noted that the group will meet again in April and discuss the direction that they will take.

LTCCC: Sr. Walsh reported that, at the November 9th meeting of the Council, Quality Partners of RI announced that they will conduct a new study of family satisfaction with nursing homes. She noted that Larry Grimaldi of DEA did a presentation on Medicare Part D. Roger DeMers of the Dept. of the Attorney General discussed the new Elder Prosecution Unit. Maureen Maigret announced that she will begin the 2006 LTCCC Work plan and she welcomes in put on issues to be included.

Forum on Aging: Joe Brown reported that the Forum has received a

legislative grant of \$2,000. He also discussed an article in the Senior Digest written by Jessica Buhler of the Senior Agenda Consortium, which he felt was very negative about the DEA. Director Russo also pointed out that some of the information in the article was incorrect. The Commission voted to advise the Director to write a rebuttal and submit it to the Senior Digest.

Silver Haired Legislature: Libby Arron was excused; there was no report.

VIII. Old Business: There was none.

IX. New Business:

P. Parker discussed the issue of repeated absenteeism among some Commission members. She and the Chair will draft a letter to such members and remind them of the rules in the Methods of Operation governing attendance and ask them to make a decision about their continued participation. P. Parker also reported that there are 4 vacancies on the Commission and that she and the Chair will contact the appointing authority and ask that those vacancies be filled.

P. Parker announced that the Annual Meeting will be held in June and planning will begin in December.

The Director recommended that the December 21st Commission

meeting be a holiday get-together with refreshments.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Ann Gardella